

HON. THOMAS CORWIN AND THE MEXICAN WAR.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO,

RELATIVE TO

*The rights and duties of Congress, and the course of the Hon. T. Corwin,
on the subject of the Mexican war.*

MAY 3, 1848

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS relative to the powers and duties of Congress in certain cases, and the course of the Hon. Thomas Corwin with reference to the present war with Mexico.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the State of Ohio repudiates, as a libel upon the constitution of the United States, the degrading and pernicious dogma which asserts that when the nation is once involved in a war with a foreign country, no matter by what means or for what ends, it is the prerogative of the President to determine the purposes for which it shall thenceforth be carried on, and the measure of its duration.

Resolved, That Congress does possess and may exercise the right to interfere with this kingly attribute when asserted or claimed by the President; and that it can never be the duty of the Representatives of the States and of the people tamely and submissively to bow to the dictates of Executive will, and humbly to subserve its behests, by transcribing into the form of legal enactments the imperious requisitions of the President for supplies of money and of men.

Resolved, That when an administration shall have become so reckless of the moral sentiment of the nation, that, lured by the lust of personal or even of national aggrandizement, it avowedly prosecutes and procrastinates a war for the purpose of wringing from a reluctant adversary, already prostrate and in the dust, the whole or any portion of his rightful territory, it becomes the imperative duty of Congress, upon the failure for that purpose of all other constitutional means, to put a stop to the effusion of blood by withholding all supplies for the further prosecution of the war; and doubly imperative does that duty become when, as in the case of the present contest with Mexico, the war was begun for questionable objects by a most palpable executive usurpation of power, and more especially

when the acquisition of the coveted territory would most fearfully threaten the disruption of the Union itself.

Resolved, That the course pursued with reference to this war by the Hon. Thomas Corwin has in no degree lessened him in the esteem of the State he represents; but that the implicit confidence in his statesmanship, his moral integrity, his pure patriotism, his true loyalty to the Union and to the State of Ohio, which was evinced by his election to the high and responsible office of Senator in Congress, remains unimpaired and unflinching.

JOSEPH S. HAWKINS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
CHARLES B. GODDARD,
Speaker of the Senate.

FEBRUARY 22, 1848.